



LOCAL HELP FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE

SHIP is a free and impartial Medicare information and counseling program provided by the Indiana Department of Insurance.

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Medicare coverage for opioid abuse treatment

Opioid abuse impacts many Hoosiers including those who are covered by Medicare. Older people and those with disabilities who struggle with opioid addiction are often people we know - family members, friends or neighbors - and face a wide range of barriers that may prevent them from getting treatment.

If you or someone you know is covered by Medicare and is suffering from opioid addiction, Medicare may be able to help pay for their treatment.

Beginning this year, Medicare offers coverage for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment services. This can be especially important now since opioid-related hospitalizations increased by 34% in the past decade in individuals over age 65.

Although coverage of this treatment was not historically covered by Medicare, it is now available for those who have Medicare Part B medical insurance starting in 2020.

Medicare Part B will cover in person and virtual delivery of counseling and therapy services provided by approved Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) which will broaden available services for people living in rural areas who are often the hardest hit by the opioid crisis.

Under the newly covered OUD benefit, Medicare will cover:

- FDA approved opioid medication-assisted treatment (MAT) medication
- Dispensing and administration of MAT medications (if applicable)
- Substance use counseling
- Individual and group therapy
- Toxicology testing
- Intake activities
- Periodic assessments

If you or someone you know has questions about Medicare's coverage of opioid treatment or any other Medicare questions, call SHIP at 1-800-452-4800, 1-866-846-0139 TDD or online at www.medicare.in.gov. You can also find SHIP on Facebook and Twitter.

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John Williams is a Medicare Specialist with State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Hoosiers can get answers to Medicare questions by calling SHIP at 800-452-4800 Monday - Friday between 8:00AM - 4:00PM.